**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2017

AT THE CROFT VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL, MUSTARD LANE, CROFT

**Present:** Councillor Bland MBE (Chair)

Councillors Cummerson, Griffiths, Partington, Thewsey.

**2018/171 Apologies.**Councillor Allen MBE had given advance notice that she would be arriving after the meeting had started.

**2018/172 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest.**There were no declarations.

**2018/173 Exclusion of the Public (including the Press).**

**Resolved**

That members of the public (including the press) be excluded from

the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the following

item of business.

**2108/174 Setting the 2018 / 19 Budget**

Members considered the Clerk’s report which showed;

the likely spend in 2017/18 will be within budget;

an itemised 2018 /19 budget; and

the effect on households of setting the precept at various levels.

Members considered it prudent to alter some expenditure

items, as follows

Re-instate caretakers’ hours - £7,340

Web site hosting fees - £300.  
Local & Parish Plan - £2,000.  
Work on toilet block - £1,520.

**Resolved**

that, with the addition of the above items, the detailed 2018/19

budget of £72,980 be approved.

**2018/175 Precept 2018/19.**

Members were content to set a budget without contingency in the knowledge that any unforeseen expenditure could be met from reserves.

**Resolved**

The precept for 2018/19 is to be set at £72,980, an increase of 2%.

Depending on the council tax band of their property, the charge per household will rise by between £0.73 and £2.19 per year.  
  
The meeting was then opened to the public.

**2018/176 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2017.  
Resolved**Approved.

**2018/177 Duchy Homes.**Representatives of Duchy Homes explained that a public consultation meeting had been held on 29th November about its proposal to build eight five bedroom houses and three affordable homes on the site of Kenyon Nursery.  
The intention is to submit formal plans to Warrington Borough Council early in the new year.  
The company has four regional offices and specialises in building high specification luxury homes.  
The company was wishing to learn how the Parish Council viewed the proposal.  
Some Members expressed concerns about;   
the additional traffic generated by site residents during commuter hours;  
the development bringing Croft and Lowton habitats closer;   
the effects on water soak away; and  
that the proposal might be too early to be taken into consideration by Warrington Borough Council as it determines housing targets in its Plan.

**2018/178 Lease of gas unit on Playing Field.**  
**Resolved**  
the proposal is to offer Cadent Gas Limited a lease at £5,000 per annum.

**2018/179 Photocopier**.  
The Clerk reported that the photocopier, whose working life had exceeded by two years its maintenance agreement, suddenly stopped functioning. Emergency repairs failed to revive the machine.  
Standing Orders required that competitive quotes should be sought for the replacement of equipment of that value.  
The Clerk consulted the Chair about the predicament and given the immediate necessity to print the agenda papers, it was agreed that a quote by the existing supplier in the sum of £2,250 for a replacement photocopier/printer be accepted.   
**Resolved**  
that the actions of the Chair and Clerk to replace the photocopier be approved.

**2018/180 Financial Reports to end of November 2017**.  
**Resolved**that the financial statements and the creditor schedule totalling £6,413.17 for November be approved**.**

**2018/181 Planning Application 2017/31717 Land at former Parkside Colliery, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8DR.**Request for EIA scoping Opinion – Proposed Parkside Link Road.  
Members were concerned at the potential incursion of the green belt.

**2018/182 Planning Application No: 2017/31670 Southworth Quarry, Winwick Lane, WA3 7EW.**Discharge of Condition - Proposed discharge of condition 25 (Surface water drainage) on application 98/37885.  
Members wondered if the discharge of water from the Quarry might cause flooding in areas of the Parish.

**2018/183 Planning Application No: 2017/31781 The Old Rectory, Lady Lane, WA3 7AU.**Householder – Proposed extension to existing house, with minor internal and landscape alterations.  
Due to this application being received late, Members agreed to advise the Clerk of any objections they might have before the Borough Council’s response deadline.

**2018/184 Planning Application No: 2017/31820 137 Kenyon Lane WA3 4AY.  
Full planning – proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of one new dwelling.**  
Due to this application being received late, Members agreed to advise the Clerk of any objections they might have before the Borough Council’s response deadline.

**2018/185 Members Referral – Naylor Trust**It was noted that the Parish Council nominates two members of the Naylor Trust.  
**Resolved**   
that Mrs. Carole Thewsey and Mr. Tom Dewhurst be the Parish Council’s nominees.

**2018/186 Members Referral – Sirocco**Cllr. Cummerson understands from Warrington Borough Council that a planning application is to be submitted seeking approval to gain access to Heath Lane from Sirocco.

**2018/187 Recess – icy conditions on Kenyon Lane .**A resident reported that there have been further road traffic incidents caused by recent icy conditions.  
It was recognised that Kenyon Lane is not on the Borough Council’s gritting schedule.  
The Clerk was asked to make the Borough Council aware of the problem.

**2018/188 Recess – Gerrard Avenue.**The Clerk was asked to advise the Borough Council of ivy growing on the road in the vicinity of Browmere Drive.

**2018/189 Recess – Fly Tipping, Stone Pit Lane.**The Clerk is to advise the Borough Council that a mattress has been dumped on Stone Pit Lane.